(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when a notification in this regard is likely to be issued; and

(c) how far it would relieve the passengers from harassment and cut short the long queues and delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A notification amending the Foreigners Order, 1948 was issued on 07.03.2005 to implement Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) from 01.10.2005 making it obligatory on the pilot of the aircraft coming to India to provide prescribed information electronically about passengers on board to the immigration authorities in India within 15 minutes of taking off from the port outside India.

(c) This would facilitate quicker immigration clearance of the passengers.

Restructuring of National Integration Council

276. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to restructure and revive the National Integration Council;

(b) if so, on what lines and what are the main objectives and function of the council so restructured; and

(c) the steps taken so far to restructure and revive the council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) The National Integration Council (NIC) has been re-constituted *vide* Press Note dated 2.2.2005. The re-constituted NIC, headed by the Prime Minister, has 141 Members comprising of Union Ministers, Chief Ministers of all States and Union Territories which have legislatures, Leaders of National Political Parties and Regional Political Parties, Chairpersons of National Commissions, Media Persons, Eminent Public Figures and Representatives drawn from Business, Labour & Women. The main objective of NIC is to review all matters pertaining to national integration and to make recommendations thereon. The first meeting of the re-constituted National Integration Council is scheduled to be held on 31st August, 2005.